

Two important propositions flow from these facts. First, whatever merit—and we have not been prone to understate it—belongs to our steam vessels, our clipper ships are still the most wonderful of our nautical achievements. Steam is undoubtedly destined to absorb even more of the commerce and traffic of the world than it now possesses; but up to the present time steam has done nothing to compare with the surprising feats of our crack clippers, commanded by experienced men, and sailed on scientific principles. Neither the builder nor the captain can claim the whole glory of the Sovereign's triumph. Both contributed a fair

There was some talk on 'Change among ship owners and merchants regarding the banter of the Sovereign of the Seas. A movement was said to be on foot to offer a reward to lead her off being accepted, if not for the whole amount of the wager, yet for a very liberal sum. To bet one hundred thousand dollars on the result, would be like betting one ship against the other. But the Sovereign would likely be soon tendered a bet of \$10,000 to \$20,000 aside on the proposed race. A gentleman present remarked that, as the Americans could not succeed in getting the clipper race out of John Bull, they were about to try their hands with each other.

Merchants complained very strongly of the practices which prevailed in Water, Front, and South streets, of carmen backing their drays upon the sidewalks, to load or unload at store doors, which rendered the sidewalks almost impassable. It was urged that the corporation should interfere to remedy the evil.

Sir Charles Lyell has earned distinction and his brightly title, by his attainments in the physical sciences, and particularly in the department of geology. This will be by no means his first visit to this country, having been here on two former occasions, in 1841 and 1848, when he made scientific investigations of the geology of the States, the result of which he gave to the world in a publication entitled "Travels in North America." Sir Charles is a Scotchman by birth, and is now in the fifty-sixth year of his age. He studied for, and was admitted to the bar, but he showed more inclination for the natural sciences than for forensic studies; and while yet at college, devoted to himself assiduously the study of entomology, botany, and more especially geology. He has subsequently he devoted most of his attention to the study of geology. In 1832 he commenced his lectures on geology at King's College, and in 1836 was elected President of the London Geological Society. His chief scientific works are "Principles of Geology," and "Elements of Geology." A more suitable personage could hardly have been selected in the British dominions, as a Commissioner to such an exhibition than Sir Charles Lyell, who will share with Lord Ellesmere in the polite attention, regard, and hospitality of this community.

It was the last extremity of national distress